

Governor Michael R. Pence
Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann
Director Ted A. McKinney

Office of Communications
One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 600 Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 232-8770 • Fax: (317) 232-1362
www.in.gov/isda • communications@isda.in.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2015

ISDA Official Receives Sagamore of the Wabash Award

*Steve Hickey is Presented with Two Major Awards at
the Indiana FFA State Convention*

INDIANAPOLIS – Steve Hickey, Director of the Indiana FFA Association for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), received two major awards during the 86th Indiana FFA State Convention. The first award presented was the FFA VIP Award. Steve Hickey was then presented the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Governor Mike Pence. ISDA Director Ted McKinney presented the award to Steve who was surrounded by his family and close friends.

After working as the Director of Indiana FFA Association for five years, Steve Hickey will be retiring from his post at ISDA in August 2015. During his tenure, Steve has helped build Indiana's membership base to record numbers. Indiana FFA membership exceeds 11,000 students and over 300 agriculture teachers. Prior to joining ISDA, Hickey was the agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor at Shenandoah High School for 33 years before retiring in the summer of 2010.

"Having Steve Hickey at the helm of the Indiana FFA Association has had a tremendous and positive impact for all current, previous and future members of Indiana FFA," said ISDA Director McKinney. "While we will certainly miss having Steve lead Indiana FFA, his legacy will live on. We are forever grateful for his service."

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The **Sagamore of the Wabash** was created during the term of Governor Ralph Gates. The award is one of the highest honors an Indiana governor can give. Among the Native American tribes of Indiana, a Sagamore was a well respected man in the tribe who the chief often sought out for advice. Now, it honors Hoosiers who stand out in their communities.

The **FFA VIP** is a state award which honors individuals who have dedicated many years of service to FFA and agricultural educations.

ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director of ISDA is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

###

Media Contact: Ben Kenney, 317.690.3303, bkenney@isda.in.gov